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LOCAL ARTISTS LEARN TO PLAY WITH OTHERS *Studios on the Park Artists Collaborate for Upcoming Show*

Paso Robles, California — Preparations for the annual SLO County Open Studios Art Tour inspired the artists of STUDIOS ON THE PARK to also open their studios to each other. The 15 resulting collaborative works will be on display in the aptly titled Plays Well With Others exhibition, on display at STUDIOS ON THE PARK through the month of October.

Collaboration is defined as “the act of working jointly” and is a common style among musicians and performance artists. However, it is not so popular in the world of fine art. The artists of STUDIOS ON THE PARK are breaking away from the norm of artists working alone (solitary Kafka-like, toiling away on their own in suffering solitude). In Plays Well With Others, they have turned this perception on its head. They are blending their assorted artistic styles, techniques, and sensibilities for this dynamic presentation.

Studio partners Laure Carlisle and WB Eckert combined their distinct painting styles to produce “[Angel of] Mercy,” an acrylic on canvas. The two artists divided the creative process, with Carlisle painting the initial background in her signature colors and textures while Eckert incorporated the figure. The experience, Eckert explained, “was very challenging and satisfying... a great exercise for any artist, in my opinion.” Carlisle shared these sentiments and commends Eckert for his efforts, saying “WB totally amazed me in the way he pulled the piece together, intensifying the design while preserving the color.”

Silversmith Randy Stromsoe and mixed media artist Lynn Kishiyama formed another dynamic duo, joining their talents to produce three abstract masks. Kishiyama shared, “When I first saw the masks that Randy had forged I was floored—they were beautiful just the way they were! I stared at them for quite awhile until they began to speak to me.” She then added feathers and beads as the piece took on the look and feeling of a mystical Maasai warrior. “I don’t know how to forge metals and Randy is not into feathers but together we created a

more intricate and interesting piece than what we could have accomplished alone,” concluded Kishiyama.

Over the last month, studio-mates Frank Armitage, Sally Tippman, and Jeanette Wolff collaborated on an articulated, humorous piece titled “Gid Yup.” The multimedia work features Lady Godiva riding with many horses through the imaginary world of art. Wolff explained that initially her group struggled to find a unified vision: “our team of three definitely needed a whack on the side of the head and a few crisp words back and forth to get going.” Fortunately, violence was avoided and once the trio learned how to play, Wolff explained, “we just couldn’t be stopped! And we had fun!”

Beginning September 29, *Plays Well With Others* will be on display in the STUDIOS ON THE PARK atrium through October 30. The opening reception will be held on October 1 in conjunction with First Saturday: Wine & The Arts, a new downtown Paso Robles tradition of art, wine, and music-filled evenings and the start of every month. From 6 PM to 9 PM, enjoy appetizers, wine from Anglim Winery, and live music by eclectic jazz vocalist Nicole Stromsoe and acoustic guitarist Dorian Michael.

STUDIOS ON THE PARK was founded in December of 2007 as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to providing a creative, educational, and transformational experience to enhance understanding and appreciation of the visual arts. STUDIOS ON THE PARK realizes its commitment by making the creative process available to the public. STUDIOS engages and inspires the San Luis Obispo County community and its visitors with a unique open studio environment. STUDIOS features artists working in a variety of media, educational programs for children and adults, and quality exhibitions by regional, national and international artists.

STUDIOS ON THE PARK is located at 1130 Pine Street in historic downtown Paso Robles. For more information, visit www.studiosonthepark.org or call 805-238-9800.